

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Con. Res. 6. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the recognition of March 10, 2023, as "Abortion Provider Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 124

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 124, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 8.7 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to establish protections for passengers in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 347

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 347, a bill to protect Americans from the threat posed by certain foreign adversaries using current or potential future social media companies that those foreign adversaries control to surveil Americans, gather sensitive data about Americans, or spread influence campaigns, propaganda, and censorship.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 541, a bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 653

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to lift the trade embargo to Cuba.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 82

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 82, a resolution congratulating the National Treasury Employees Union on its 85th anniversary and commending the dedication shown Federal employees and continued service provided by the National Treasury Employees Union and the members of the National Treasury Employees Union.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 733. A bill to clarify that convictions for kidnapping or sexual abuse are grounds for inadmissibility and deportability under the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 733

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reverse Entry for Migrant Offenders and Violence Expulsion Act".

#### SEC. 2. GROUNDS FOR INADMISSIBILITY.

Section 212(a)(2)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(F)) is amended to read as follows:

"(F) KIDNAPPING; SEXUAL ABUSE.—Any alien who has been convicted of—

"(i) any offense under chapter 55 of title 18, United States Code (related to kidnapping); or

"(ii) any offense under chapter 109A of such title (related to sexual abuse),

is inadmissible."

#### SEC. 3. GROUNDS FOR DEPORTATION.

Section 237(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)(D)(i)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "chapter 55 (relating to kidnapping)," after "espionage,"; and

(2) by inserting "chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse)," after "sabotage,".

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 734. A bill to enhance the participation of precision agriculture in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, agriculture may well be among the world's oldest ways of life, but it has never been stagnant. Farmers and ranchers have always looked for new and better ways to increase crop yields, conserve resources, and keep their land and livestock healthy and productive. Today's agricultural producers explore new farming practices, grow more resilient crops, and adopt new technologies to produce more and to use less. And the resilience of our food supply and America's ability to feed our country and the world are in no small measure thanks to these farmer-driven advances.

As I said, farmers and ranchers are always looking for ways to improve their operations, but they can face challenges when they are looking for reliable data. While the U.S. Department of Agriculture collects a lot of data, little has been done to analyze and organize it so it is useful for farmers.

Right now, many producers have to rely on anecdotal information to determine the value of things, like conservation and other production practices, and decide what to adopt on their farms and ranches. Better data would make it easier for farmers to decide what practices are the best option for them.

A recent study of Department of Agriculture data from farms in several States confirmed anecdotal reports about certain conservation practices. It demonstrated that farmers who use these practices were more likely to be able to plant during an exceptionally wet spring. That is the kind of information farmers need to make informed decisions about their operations. We need to see more of this kind of analysis.

That is why, earlier this year, I introduced my bipartisan Agriculture Innovation Act with Senator KLOBUCHAR. Our bill would make it easier for producers to use USDA data to assess the impact of various conservation and production practices so that producers can choose the right practices for their farm and ranch operations. I will work to get the Agriculture Innovation Act included in this year's farm bill.

While the macrolevel data that USDA collects can provide valuable information, farmers are already beginning to look to the next frontier, collecting real-time microlevel data from their own fields.

Imagine what a farmer could do with real-time information about soil quality, water uptake, and plant health. Imagine quickly knowing whether you need more nitrogen or less water in a section of your field. Imagine having real-time data about your land or livestock at your fingertips. This is the promise of precision agriculture: harnessing the power of technology to help producers manage their operations with real-time data.

GPS can allow farmers to identify field characteristics, map out irrigation, and optimize crop production on their fields. Soil monitors can allow farmers to react to conditions as they change and apply fertilizers more precisely. And remote monitoring can help farmers keep tabs on everything from resource usage to livestock health and feed consumption.

This precision agriculture represents a significant leap forward in farmers' long advance toward producing more and using less. It presents an opportunity to increase profitability by cutting down on inputs, the prices of which have spiked amid our inflation crisis. And it is a step toward broader use of conservation practices that will keep farm land in productive use for years to come.

But for Americans to reap all of the benefits of precision agriculture, more work needs to be done.

Today, I am introducing the bipartisan Promoting Precision Agriculture Act with Senator WARNOCK to help facilitate widespread adoption of precision technology. My bill would establish a partnership between government and the private sector to develop voluntary interconnectivity standards and prioritize cyber security for precision agriculture technologies. These standards will help enhance agriculture update and ensure reliability, usability, and security for producers and their data. It is an important element of ensuring these new technologies deliver the advances they promise and of making sure farmers and ranchers can trust that they are worthwhile investments.

But as farmers look to precision agriculture future, the one thing that could still hold them back is the continued digital divide. Without a reliable internet connection, precision agriculture just doesn't work. Next-generation precision ag technologies will need stronger connectivity.

Connecting unserved areas to reliable broadband has long been a priority of mine, and we made a good deal of progress through Federal investments and policies like my MOBILE NOW Act that removed regulatory barriers to broadband expansion.

But we still have a lot of work to do.

This year, I reintroduced my Rural Internet Improvement Act to stream-

line USDA's broadband authorities and ensure broadband funding goes to areas where at least 90 percent of households lack broadband access.

We also need to ensure broadband investments we have already made are actually going to their intended goal, and that is expanding broadband access to areas that are currently lacking it.

In the last 3 years, the Federal Government has allocated \$79 billion to broadband programs. But all the money in the world is useless if it is not being spent properly, which is why I launched a broadband oversight initiative in December to ensure this funding is going toward delivering broadband to the Americans who need it most.

It has been clear for a long time how critical an internet connection is to the future of everything from education and healthcare to business and everyday life. Connectivity has the potential to truly revolutionize how we grow food in America.

I am proud that South Dakota has been a leader in precision agriculture. South Dakota State University was the first in the country to offer a 4-year precision agriculture degree. In 2021, the university opened the Raven Precision Agriculture Center where the next generation of farmers will work to advance the next generation of farming.

Since opening its precision ag center, SDSU has also launched a precision ag and cyber program with Dakota State University, a leading cyber security institution.

As I have said numerous times, agriculture is the lifeblood of South Dakota. And anything we can do to make agriculture more efficient and more productive is not only good for our Nation's food supply, it is good for South Dakota farmers and their families.

Precision agriculture is one of those things. It has the potential to deliver the same kind of advance that crop rotation, the Farmer's Almanac, and crop engineering delivered for farming. It can make farming more efficient, more cost-effective, and environmentally friendly than it already is. And it can help our farms produce more food for more people with fewer resources and on less land.

I will be working hard to ensure South Dakota farmers and ranchers and farmers and ranchers around the country have the resources they need to innovate and that this year's farm bill advances the next generation of farming.

A farmer is a lot of things: a scientist and a laborer, an innovator and accountant, an engineer and a conservationist. I am proud to serve the extraordinary men and women who keep our rich agricultural heritage alive and thriving. And I will continue working to help them as they move it into the future.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 734

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Precision Agriculture Act of 2023".

## SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 3GPP.—The term "3GPP" means the Third Generation Partnership Project.

(2) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The term "advanced wireless communications technology" means advanced technology that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks, next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future networks using other technologies, regardless of whether the network is operating on an exclusive licensed, shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

(3) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term "artificial intelligence" has the meaning given the term in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

(4) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term "foreign adversary" means any foreign government or foreign nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States, or security and safety of United States persons.

(5) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term "precision agriculture" means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, time, and such other inputs as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

(6) PRECISION AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT.—The term "precision agriculture equipment" means any equipment or technology that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

(A) global positioning system-based or geospatial mapping;

(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

(C) yield monitors;

(D) soil mapping;

(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, and livestock conditions;

(F) Internet of Things and technology that relies on edge and cloud computing;

(G) data management software and advanced analytics;

(H) network connectivity products and solutions, including public and private wireless networks;

(I) global positioning system guidance, auto-steer systems, autonomous fleet, and other machine-to-machine operations;

(J) variable rate technology for applying inputs, such as section control; and

(K) any other technology that leads to a reduction in, or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock production inputs, which may include—

(i) seed;

(ii) feed;

(iii) fertilizer;

(iv) chemicals;

(v) water;

(vi) time;

(vii) fuel;

(viii) emissions; and

(ix) such other inputs as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(8) **TRUSTED.**—The term “trusted” means, with respect to a provider of advanced communications service or a supplier of communications equipment or service, that the Secretary has determined that the provider or supplier is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign adversary.

(9) **VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “voluntary consensus standards development organization” means an organization that develops standards in a process that meets the principles for the development of voluntary consensus standards (as defined in the document of the Office of Management and Budget entitled “Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities” (OMB Circular A-119)).

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “voluntary consensus standards development organization” includes the 3GPP, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, the Agricultural Industry Electronics Foundation, and the Global System for Mobile Communications Association.

### SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to enhance the participation of precision agriculture in the United States; and

(2) to promote United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

### SEC. 4. INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall—

(1) develop voluntary, consensus-based, private sector-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices for precision agriculture that will promote economies of scale and ease the burden of the adoption of precision agriculture; and

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1)—

(A) coordinate with relevant public and trusted private sector stakeholders and other relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(B) consult with sector-specific agencies, other appropriate agencies, and State and local governments.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Secretary, in carrying out subsection (a), shall, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, consider—

(1) the evolving demands of precision agriculture;

(2) the connectivity needs of precision agriculture equipment;

(3) the cybersecurity challenges facing precision agriculture, including cybersecurity threats for agriculture producers and agriculture supply chains;

(4) the impact of advanced wireless communications technology on precision agriculture; and

(5) the impact of artificial intelligence on precision agriculture.

### SEC. 5. GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the Secretary develops standards under section 4, and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that assesses those standards, including the extent to which those standards, as applicable—

(1) are voluntary;

(2) were developed in coordination with relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(3) have successfully encouraged the adoption of precision agriculture.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that summarizes the findings of each study conducted under subsection (a).

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 735. A bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am pleased to join Senator COLLINS and Senators VAN HOLLEN, CORTEZ MASTO, and KLOBUCHAR in introducing legislation that would permanently reauthorize the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Council or USICH.

The Council was established during the Reagan administration as part of the landmark McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. Over the last three and a half decades, it has brought Agencies from across the Federal Government together to coordinate efforts to address homelessness. In 2009, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing, HEARTH, Act, which I authored along with Senator COLLINS, expanded the Council's role, allowing it to work with public, nonprofit and private stakeholders to develop a national strategic plan to end homelessness. With a small budget and a small staff, the Council has helped guide Federal, State, and local stakeholders in deploying their resources in a smart, effective and coordinated fashion. The results have been evident. In the decade after USICH published its first plan, overall homelessness declined 9 percent. Family and veterans homelessness declined significantly, as well, with the total numbers dropping nearly 30 percent and 50 percent, respectively. In fact, the Council has been able to help 83 communities and three States effectively end veteran homelessness.

Even with this progress, homelessness has persisted, and we have faced a growing challenge in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress found that, on “a single night in 2022, roughly 582,500 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States,” while the majority of individuals experiencing homelessness were living on the street or in other unsheltered locations and were not in homeless shelters. The COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying economic effects have also pushed homelessness rates higher in many parts of

the country. Indeed, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness increased in the majority of States between January 2020, and 2022, including a staggering 48 percent jump in my home State of Rhode Island.

USICH can help us meet this challenge by guiding how its 19 Federal member Agencies deploy and leverage their resources with nonfederal partners in order to help communities effectively address homelessness. We know that smart, coordinated investments in programs that address homelessness and increase affordable housing pay additional dividends. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, “Based on 22 different studies from across the country, providing permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless people creates net savings of \$4,800 per person per year, through reduced spending on jails, hospitals, shelters, and other emergency services.” In short, helping people avoid homelessness not only helps them, it can also save taxpayers money, and USICH helps make our investments to address homelessness more informed and more effective.

Indeed, the Council continues to prove that the government can work and save money in the process. That is why we should permanently authorize USICH and why organizations like the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness, and HousingWorks RI have supported our bill. I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 745. A bill to designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, this bill authorizes additions to two existing wilderness areas within the George Washington National Forest in Bath County, VA. This text represents years of negotiation and compromise among Virginia stakeholders who rely on the GW Forest.

In many parts of America, Federal land management is controversial. Some may view these lands as repositories for timber, energy, or minerals. Others may enjoy using recreational trails through them. Others may believe that they should be left undisturbed. The truth, of course, is that all of these uses are important; the conflict lies in deciding which lands are best suited to which purposes.

In the lead-up to the latest multiyear GW Forest Management Plan, various forest users came together to see if they could find reasonable compromises that would avoid years of unproductive disagreement and litigation. This group, known as the George

Washington National Forest Stakeholder Collaborative, ultimately succeeded and made joint recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service for forest management and protection. Preservation advocates consented to timber harvesting and other active forest restoration and management in certain areas, while forest products interests consented to wilderness and light management in other areas. Following this fruitful collaboration, the Forest Service convened the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project, bringing together the collaborative and other stakeholders to help develop management activities on this particular part of GW Forest in Bath County. Everyone got some of what they wanted, and everyone gave some ground.

The collaborative has now come together to support the wilderness additions in this bill, which designates 4,600 acres to be added to the Rich Hole Wilderness Area and 1,000 acres to be added to the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area. I am proud to once again partner with Senator MARK WARNER and follow the path blazed by Senator John Warner and Representative Rick Boucher, who led the original Virginia Wilderness Act in 1984. I am also proud that this bill has passed the Senate in previous Congresses, including by unanimous consent. I will be pushing to include this bill as part of the 2023 farm bill, and I hope that we can bring this effort to the finish line soon.

Taking care of our Nation's public lands is good for the environment and good for the economy. Land disputes may often be contentious, but these efforts in the GW Forest show they don't have to be. When everyone comes to the table and invests the necessary time, we can find common ground. I hope this will be a lesson for us in other tough policy challenges, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to support this bill.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 747. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act. My colleague Senator KING joins me in introducing this important legislation that would assist farmers across America who have been harmed by PFAS contamination.

PFAS are a class of man-made chemicals—sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals”—that can bioaccumulate in bodies over time. They are traditionally found in nonstick pans, clothing, furniture, and firefighting foam and have been linked to cancer, thyroid disease, liver damage,

decreased fertility, and hormone disruption. PFAS contamination is a growing problem, and additional resources are needed to support affected communities.

In Maine, PFAS contamination affecting many different sectors, including agriculture, has been discovered over the past several years. The presence of PFAS in wastewater sludge once spread as fertilizer has prevented some Maine farms from selling their products, thus leading to significant financial hardship for these family farmers. One such farmer is Fred Stone, a dairy farmer in Arundel, ME. In 2016, Fred discovered that the milk produced on his farm contained some of the highest levels ever reported for a PFAS contaminant at that time. More recently, a dairy farm in Fairfield, ME, found PFAS levels in its milk that were 153 times higher than the State's standard.

Dairy is not the only agricultural sector affected by these harmful forever chemicals. Adam Nordell and his wife Johanna Davis, from Unity, ME, learned that PFAS had contaminated the soil and water in their organic vegetable farm, the result of sludge spread on their land in the 1990s. Tests last year showed that Adam and Johanna had levels of PFAS in their blood that were even higher than chemical plant workers who manufactured PFAS for decades and handled them daily.

Currently, USDA provides limited support through the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program to dairy farmers who have been directed to remove their contaminated milk from the commercial market. This program falls far short of meeting the growing needs of all farmers in the State of Maine. Fred Stone, the farmer who first learned of contamination in 2016, has still not been compensated adequately for the contamination he has experienced. What is more, this program helps only dairy farmers, excluding the farmers of other agricultural products who have had their livelihoods disrupted by PFAS contamination. While community organizations and the State of Maine have stepped in to provide some aid, USDA should do more to assist all farmers affected by these chemicals. That is what our legislation aims to do.

Specifically, the funds authorized by the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act could be used for a variety of purposes at the State level, including providing financial assistance to affected farmers; building capacity for PFAS testing for soil or water sources; monitoring blood for individuals to make informed decisions about their health; upgrading or purchasing equipment to ensure a farm remains profitable during or after known PFAS contamination; developing alternative production systems or remediation strategies; developing educational programs for farmers experiencing PFAS contamination; and researching soil and water remediation systems, and the viability of those systems for farms.

In addition to making new resources available, our bill would create a task force at USDA charged with identifying other USDA programs to which PFAS contamination should be added as a activity. This would help bring even more resources to farmers through existing programs. Additionally, the task force would provide technical assistance to States to help them coordinate their responses effectively.

Mr. President, USDA needs to step up and provide support to farmers, who through no fault of their own are at risk of losing their livelihoods. This is not just a problem in Maine. A recent report released by the Environmental Working Group estimated that approximately 20 million acres of crop land in the United States could be contaminated from PFAS-tainted sludge, which had been used as fertilizer.

Thus far, the Federal Government's response has failed to keep pace with this growing problem. I have urged USDA Secretary Vilsack repeatedly to come to the aid of these affected farmers, and the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act would direct the Department to help where it is needed most.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. As the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee begin work on the 2023 farm bill, I hope that we can work together to pass the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act into law.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 101—DESIGNATING MARCH 9, 2023, AS “NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT PERVASIVE GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS, AND TO PROMOTE EDUCATION TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 101

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals in the United States are targeted by government imposter scams each year, including Social Security-related and Internal Revenue Service-related government imposter scams;

Whereas government imposter scams involve scammers contacting individuals in the United States and impersonating employees of government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to demand payment or personal information, which defrauds individuals of the United States and erodes trust in the government agencies that the scammers impersonate;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 10,000 complaints from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of which  $\frac{1}{3}$  were reporting possible government imposter scams;

Whereas there were more than 191,000 government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission in 2022;